

PM: Nurture the next generation

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Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants future leaders of the nation to be disciplined and committed to the task of taking Malaysia to new heights.

The Prime Minister said current leaders should help younger people nurture these qualities.

"Leaders come and go but our struggle never ends. I know it is not easy to instill good qualities in someone but we have no choice.

"We must strive to produce new leaders who are much better than the older generation," he told a 10,000-strong crowd gathered at Padang Brown here for the launch of the state Putera Umno.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam and Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri His- hammuddin Hussein greeted Abdullah on his arrival. Also present were deputy Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin, Putera Umno president-designate Datuk Abdul Azeez Abd Rahim and state Putera Umno chief Mohd Salim Abd Bari. Abdullah reminded the younger generation not to be complacent but to seek greater success.

"You should not live in isolation. Instead, you should always lead a successful and progressive life. You have no choice but to be the best and excel." Abdullah later handed Putera Umno flags to the 13 divisional Umno Youth chiefs in the State. Earlier, Abdullah, who is also the state Umno Liaison Committee chief, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the purchase of the 21-storey Menara Umno building along Jalan Macalister by JKP Sdn Bhd from Amanah Capital Properties (Penang) Sdn Bhd.

He also witnessed the signing of two other MoUs — a trust deed between the state Umno Liaison Committee and JKP on its appointment as the building's trustee and another between JKP and Bumiputera Commerce Bank Bhd for a RM12 million loan to purchase Menara Umno. Menara Umno, which was completed in 1998 at a cost of RM38 million is currently 70 per cent occupied. However, it was sold to JKP for RM18 million. Later, Abdullah chaired the state Umno Liaison Committee meeting and the Umno Kepala Batas meeting respectively. He also attended the wedding of Ahmad Humaizi, the son of Finance Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya, to Asna Rasyidah Abdul Hamid.

Source: NST | www.nst.com.my